

Governments of the World  
Distant Learning Course Syllabus  
Political Science 141

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Course Learning Objectives

Our aim is to make this online course interesting, engaging, and a fruitful learning

This course introduces students to (1) political science research methods, political concepts and theories; (2) contemporary political issues around the globe; (3) and case studies of the political systems of France, China, Russia and Nigeria.

In summary, students will get from the course

Introduction to theories and concepts used in comparative politics, theories that explain politics and political change social and political cleavages (divisions) party systems, electoral systems, interest groups, and social movement presidential and parliamentary systems  
politics in France, China, Russia and Nigeria, including their political culture and socio-political divisions political institutions

By the end of the course students should have obtained a good vocabulary of political science terms and concepts, a good basis to analyze political and social issues, comparative analysis skills, some ability to analyze politics and identify bases of social and political conflicts in different political systems, some comparative understanding of political differences between France, China, Russia and Nigeria, the ability write short analytical essays analyzing various aspects of politics in these countries, and enhanced critical thinking and writing skills

What I Expect From You:

Take advantage of the learning modules and the material within them.  
Complete all assignments on time.  
Keep up with the readings and videos

What to Expect From Me:

Well organized learning modules  
Clear lesson plans and learning objectives  
Exams and essays graded promptly and accurately  
Prompt response to questions and issues that arise

Textbook

Marketplace: <https://app.skyepack.com/purdue/students>

This course uses a lower cost extext written and designed by Professor Woods. It is available only on the Skyepack Platform. To access the etext, please complete the following steps in a web browser (Firefox, Chrome, or IE 11 are recommended): Create an account at [www.skyepack.com](http://www.skyepack.com) USING YOUR @PURDUE.EDU email address. Skyepack will send an email to you to verify your account. After creating an account and logging in, locate the Purdue Student Marketplace by either: Locate the content for your course. Courses in the Purdue Student Marketplace are organized by course designation (for example, CHM 261 is in the “CHM – Chemistry” category). Hover your mouse over the pack for your course, and select “Add to My Collection” from the drop-down menu. Purchase access to your course content using a credit or debit card. After you complete the purchase, the content will now reside in your pack collection (accessed via the “My Pack Collection” tab on the left sidebar. To open the pack and view the content for your course, hover over the pack icon in your My Pack Collection page and select the “Play” icon button.

Accessing the Purdue Student Marketplace by selecting “Channel Guide” on the left sidebar, then selecting “Purdue Student Marketplace”.

### Couse Organization

Some friendly advice: set a schedule with the lesson plans and stick to it! Taking an online course require self-motivation and sticking to a learning schedule. I have developed detailed lesson plans and a course schedule. My advice is that you adapt it to your schedule. The deadlines are ironclad. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances! The course is set up in a way that gives you ample time to do the assignments.

Thus, it is organized differently from a classroom course. It is based on the principle of interactive learning. There are no formal lectures. The interactive learning takes place within learning modules. Within these modules, there are structured lesson plans and specified learning objectives. As you progress in the modules, you will be given an opportunity to assess what you have learned and how well you have grasped the material. Learning exercises follow each learning objective in each module. At the end of each learning module, there is a lessons learned, points earned assessment exam. The same questions you answer in the learning exercises are on learning assessment. The course ends with a final lessons learned points earned exam. This exam is sample of the questions you already answered on the eight lesson learned points earned exams.

### Important Information

On the lessons learned exercises that lead up to the lessons learned points earn assessment exam, you are given two chances (duration 60 minutes for each attempt that auto submits at the 60 minute point). You do not get any earned points towards your grade for the lessons

learned exercises; the points you see only indicate whether or not you answered the questions correctly. You can take the lessons learned, points earned assessment only once; however, you will have 90 minutes to finish the assessment once you start (the clock does not stop if you decide to leave the exam; it auto submits). It is strongly recommended that you submit the lessons learned, points earned at the end of each module. In any case, the final deadline for submitting the lessons learned, points earned assessments is divided into two periods. In the first period, you must submit the first two lessons learned, points earned assessment exams by February 18 before 11:30 P.M. The reason for this cutoff is that Purdue University requires a mid-point grade for all 100 and 200 level classes. The first two modules will close after this date! The grades are simply indicative of the progress you are making in the course. In the second period, you can submit the next six lessons learned, points earned assessments anytime up to the cut off time and that is April 29 before 11:30 P.M. Once the deadline has passed, lessons learned, points earned assessment exams will not be accepted or graded. This is an ironclad policy: No exceptions!!!

There is a final exam of 100 questions taken from the lessons learned and lesson learned points earned assessment exams. You will have 180 minutes to complete the exam. Recall that once you start the exam the clock starts and it will auto-submit after the time has expired! Resetting of the clock will not be permitted under any circumstances!

Note: all modules and the final exam are open at the start of the semester. You can complete them whenever you like!

In addition to the lessons learned, points earned assessments, there are four short bonus point essays. You are allowed to do only one bonus point essay for a maximum for a maximum five points. There is also in the first chapter of the etext a bonus point exam opportunity that is worth five points. Thus, you can earn an extra 10 points in the course.

Note about the essays: The essays are structured in a specific manner. I have written for each analytical essay the opening paragraph and part of the conclusion. You must use verbatim (i.e., word for word) those paragraphs in your essay. Failure to do so will result in points being deductive from the grade! Your task is to fill in the substantive parts of the essay. It is expected that the essays will be well written and referenced. The bonus point essays are designed to help you develop and sharpen your writing and analytical skills over the course of the second half of the semester. Sloppy, plagiarized, and sub-par college level papers will receive no points! Also, all essays are automatically checked for plagiarism.

#### Lessons learned points earned assessment exams

There are 8 lessons learned points earned assessment exams that will count for 90 percent of your grade.

Purdue requires a midterm assessment for 100 and 200 level courses. Thus, the first two Lessons learned, points earned assessments that have not already been submitted must be

submitted by February 18 before 11:30 P.M. These two modules will close at this point and will not be reopened under any circumstances!

A final exam of 100 questions that are taken from the 8 lessons learned points earned assessment exams will count for the remaining 10 percent of the grade.

Five point bonus essay opportunity is available. You cannot do more than one essay out of the four topics available.

### University Policies

#### Students with Disabilities

<https://www.purdue.edu/studentsuccess/specialized/drc/faculty/index.html>

#### Academic integrity

Cheating will be punished with a failing grade in the class and a report to the Dean of Students.

(<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php> )

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, [Student Regulations](#)] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

Students are expected, within the context of the Regulations Governing Student Conduct and other applicable University policies, to act responsibly and ethically by applying the appropriate exception under the Copyright Act to the use of copyrighted works in their activities and studies. The University does not assume legal responsibility for violations of copyright law by students who are not employees of the University.

A Copyrightable Work created by any person subject to this policy primarily to express and preserve scholarship as evidence of academic advancement or academic accomplishment. Such works may include, but are not limited to, scholarly publications, journal articles, research bulletins, monographs, books, plays, poems, musical compositions and other works of artistic imagination, and works of students created in the course of their education, such as exams, projects, theses or dissertations, papers and articles.

### Attendance

Students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible...For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, or by contacting the main office that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

Although in this distance course there is no attendance requirement, students are expected to keep up to date with all assignments by logging in on a regular basis. To reiterate, late assignments will not be graded. Organize your time appropriately to meet the required deadlines for exams, course activities, and bonus essays.

#### Grief Absence Policy for Students

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

#### Emergencies

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

#### Nondiscrimination

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital

status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in [Executive Memorandum No. D-1](#), which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Any student who believes they have been discriminated against may visit [www.purdue.edu/report-hate](http://www.purdue.edu/report-hate) to submit a complaint to the Office of Institutional Equity. Information may be reported anonymously.